

# Virginia Child Nutrition Programs

Virginia Food Security Summit  
October 22, 2020



VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LEARNERS



VIRGINIA



# INTRODUCTION



**SCHOOL  
NUTRITION  
PROGRAMS**

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  F EDUCATION



VIRGINIA



# PRESENTATION GOAL

- To help you use the roadmap as a guide for envisioning and implementing a holistic childhood food security strategy for your locality



# SCHOOL BREAKFAST: ROADMAP GOAL

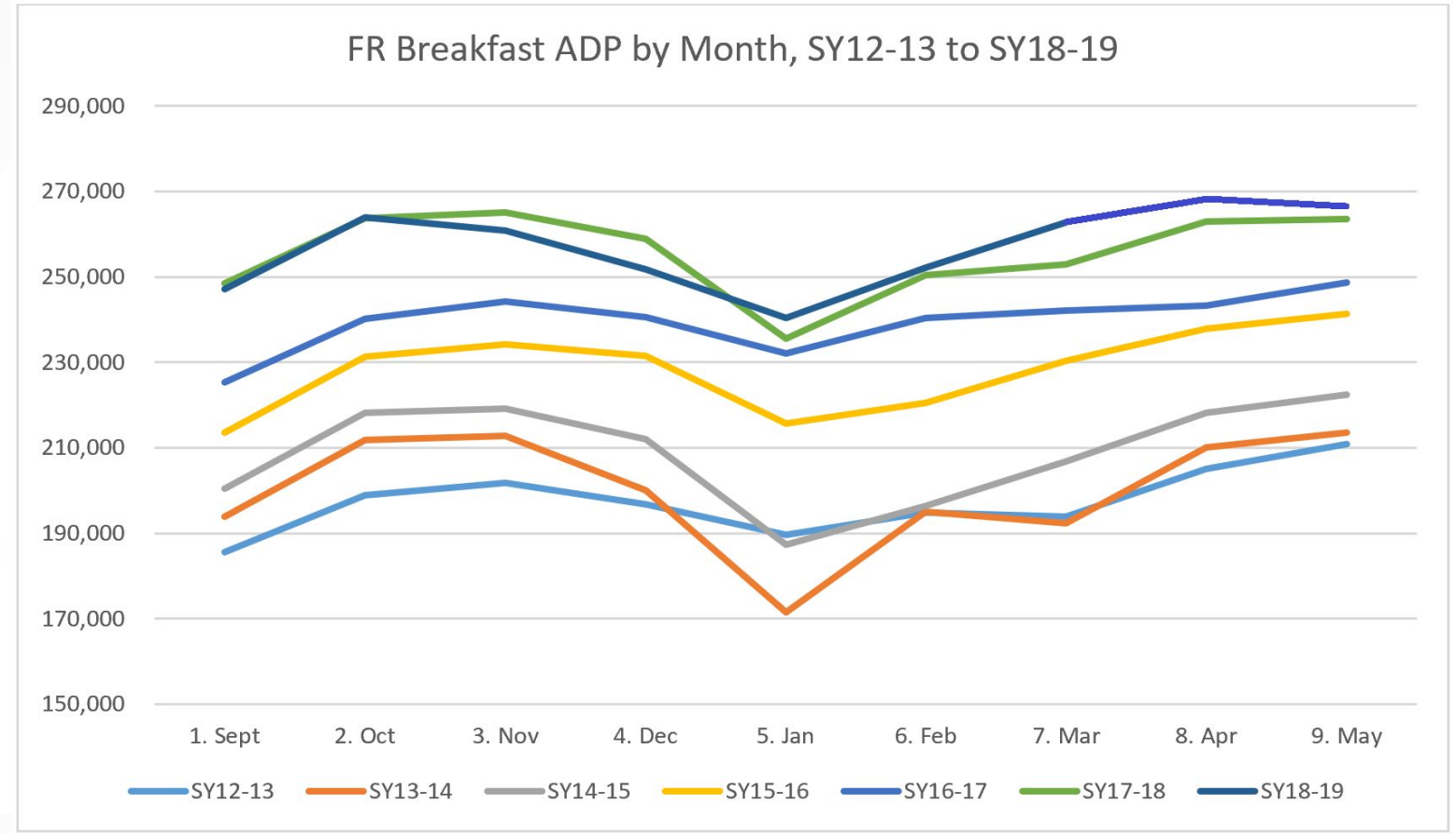
- Achieve 70% ADP for breakfast among free and reduced students compared to school lunch participation
  - Sustain and grow state funding streams to support Breakfast After the Bell models
  - Require actionable improvement plans from schools that are below the established school breakfast participation goal
  - Assist schools and divisions with reaching the established school breakfast goal by providing implementation support and technical assistance
  - Engage school administrators in supporting school meal programs





# VIRGINIA BREAKFAST DATA

- Breakfast participation has grown from 51% in school year 2012-2013 to ~64% in October 2019.
- Nearly 1,300 schools have alternative breakfast models.



# COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION: ROADMAP GOAL

- Ensure all schools with a 50% Identified Student Percentage (ISP) or higher participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)



# VIRGINIA CEP DATA

- Over two-thirds of Virginia's 132 public school divisions participate in CEP in at least one school, affecting 385,188 students.
- Divisionwide CEP participation has grown from four public school divisions in the 2014-2015 school year to 62 public school divisions in 2019-2020
- HB 5113- financial viability assessment

# AFTERSCHOOL MEALS - ROADMAP GOAL

- Ensure the availability of at least one Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) afterschool meal/snack opportunity in all eligible localities
  - Through outreach initiatives and technical assistance, ensure each school division with at least one eligible school participates in CACFP At-risk Afterschool Meals or Snacks
  - Assist schools and community organizations with establishing programs, expanding access, and reaching the established CACFP goal



# VIRGINIA AFTERSCHOOL MEALS DATA

- In 2018-2019...
  - Over 6.5 million afterschool meals and snacks served through the USDA afterschool meal programs in 2018-2019
  - Approximately 76 meal providers served afterschool meals at over 1,100 sites.
- Since 2013-2014, the number of school divisions offering the Afterschool Meals Program increased from 7 in the 2013-2014 school year to over 40 in 2018-2019.

# SUMMER MEALS - ROADMAP GOAL

- Ensure all low-income children have access to nutrition programs during the Summer



# VIRGINIA SUMMER MEALS DATA

- In 2019, 148 meal providers served approximately 3.5 million meals at over 1,500 individual sites
- In 2013, 49 school divisions participated, compared to 93 in 2019
- In 2019, approx. 17 localities had 0 summer meals sites



# SPOTLIGHT ON DANVILLE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Phillip Gardner**

Director of Child Nutrition





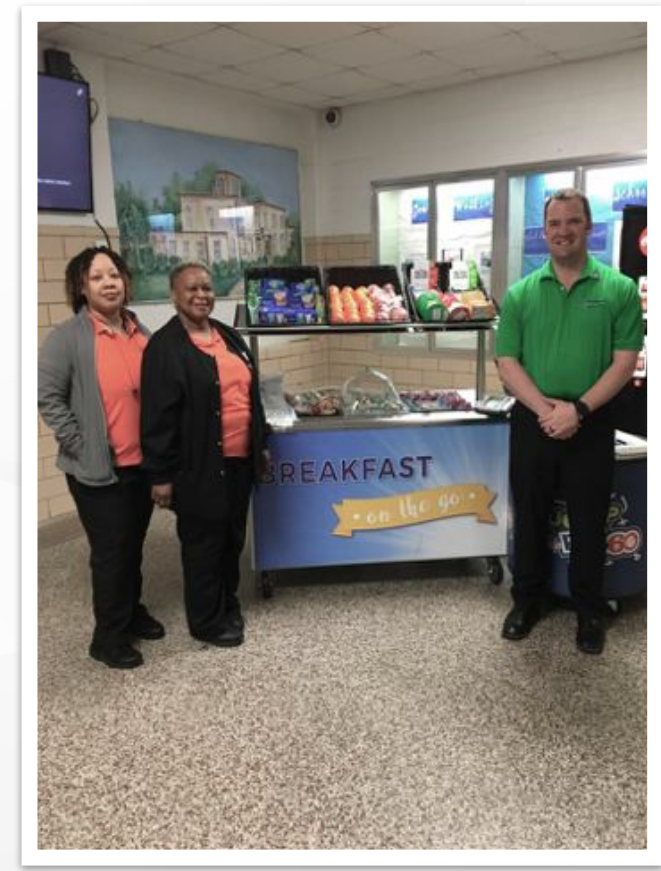
# OUR COMMITMENT TO MEAL QUALITY

- We always keep our students engaged with new and innovative menu items
- We designate different schools as “test kitchens” for new recipes
- We pick different age groups to try out our new recipes
- We are slowly transitioning into a 75% scratch cooking division
- Scratch cooking was initially a “hard sell” to staff members, but now all staff have bought into it because we see that these menu items are enjoyed by all students



# OUR ALTERNATIVE BREAKFAST MODELS

- Many of our schools in our division are equipped with breakfast kiosks
- The kiosks were first introduced to our elementary schools, but now are in both our middle schools and high school
- The kiosks remind students of a drive through and has boosted our ADP for every school that participates
- The middle and high school students love it and the building administrators also love it because it gives teachers more instructional time



# MARKETING SCHOOL MEALS

- It is important to use any available technology to market meals to our students
- We use: Facebook, Website, Instagram, Nutrislice, Digital Menu Boards in all Cafeterias





# FOOD TRUCK AND CACFP

In the summer of 2019, we introduced a food truck to our division for summer feeding, and it was a hit

We introduced the same food truck into our CACFP platform, teaming up with instruction for enrichment activities, and the community loved it

Each day (Monday-Friday), the food truck was in a different location serving our students hot, nutritious meals





# PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

- During this pandemic, we had numerous community partners help us with providing healthy, nutritious meals to our students
- With the help of Food Lion, God's Pit Crew, God's Storehouse, and many Child Care Agencies, we feel that we are doing our part to service our students and families



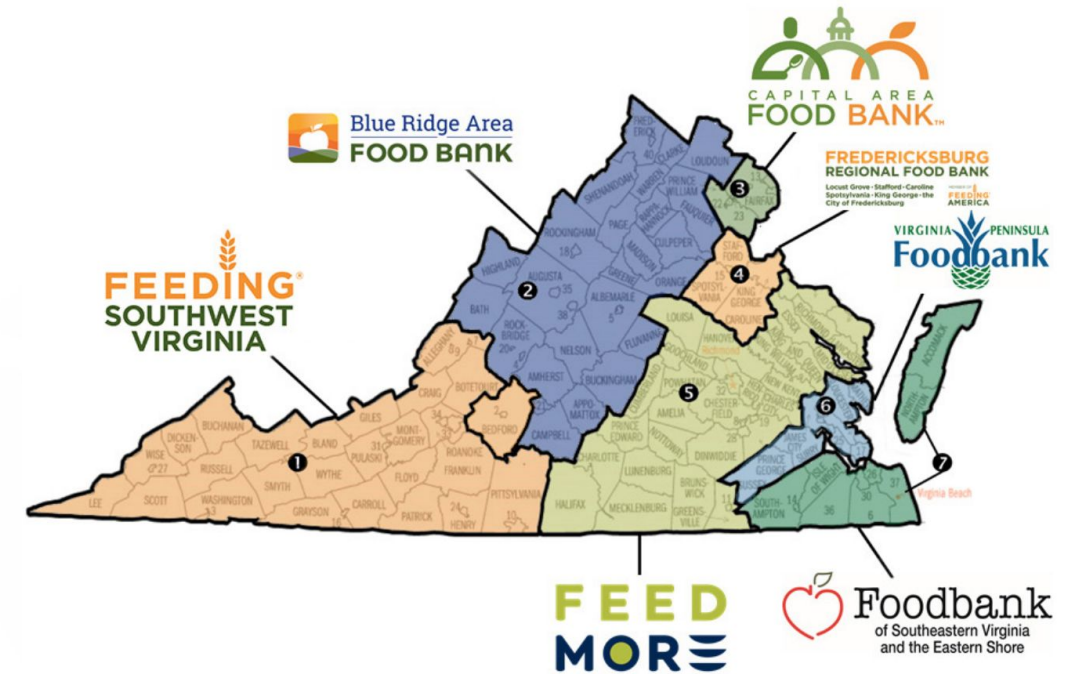
# SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships are essential to achieving childhood food security



# FOODBANK - ROADMAP GOAL

- Sustain funding support for child nutrition programs provided by Virginia's food banks
  - Meet the basic needs of low-income families with children by providing food for the weekends, establishing food distributions at schools and serving nutritious meals through afterschool and summer programs.



# SPOTLIGHT ON VIRGINIA PENINSULA FOODBANK

Jacquelyn Linder

Nutrition Programs Director







# Child Hunger Nutrition Programs

- Kids Cafe
- Afterschool Snack
- Food For Kids Backpack Program
- School Pantry
- Summer Food Service Program



## Mission

The child nutrition program's mission is to break the cycle of hunger and food insecurity for children in low-income communities by providing nutritious and equitable food access.



- Collaboration
- Partnerships
- Volunteers











- Collaboration
- Partnerships
- Volunteers









**BACKPACK  
PARTNERSHIPS:**  
Gloucester Public Schools,  
Hampton City Schools, Newport  
News Public Schools, WJCC  
Schools, York County Schools,  
HRCAP Head Start, WJCC Head  
Start, and York County Head Start  
Programs.



**The Child Nutrition Programs are served throughout our service area in the cities and counties of Newport News, Hampton, Gloucester, York County, and Williamsburg-James City County .**

- The mission of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is to distribute food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition and encourage self-reliance through education.



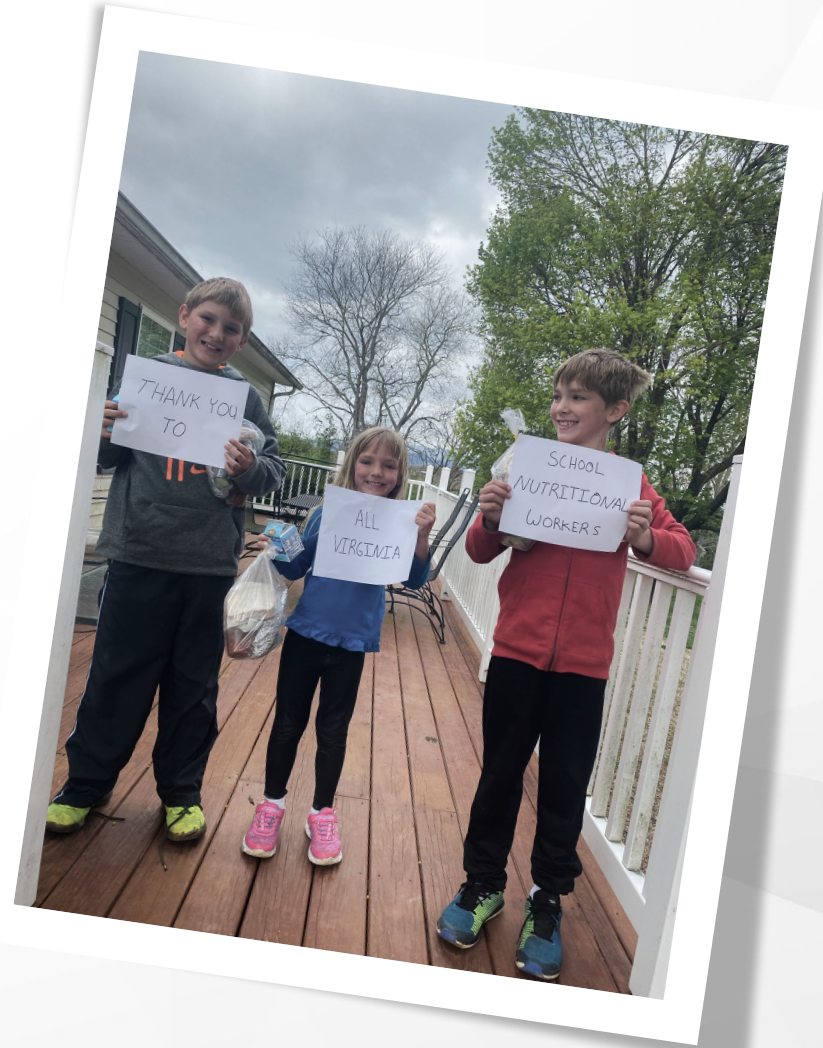


# EARLY CHILDHOOD - ROADMAP GOAL

- Increase the number of meals served through CACFP at daycare centers and family daycare homes by 20%
  - Extend program eligibility to centers and homes receiving subsidy funding
  - Implement consistent messaging around CACFP as an indicator of quality childcare
  - Increase training opportunities for CACFP sponsors and eligible centers
  - Provide targeted outreach, data sharing, technical assistance through a sustained partnership of VDSS, VDH and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Regardless of your income, support the school meal programs
- Advocate for the programs to be the best they can possibly be
- Identify and elevate gaps
- Show some love to our frontline workers



# THANK YOU!

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